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The WOOL SITUATION

March 1958
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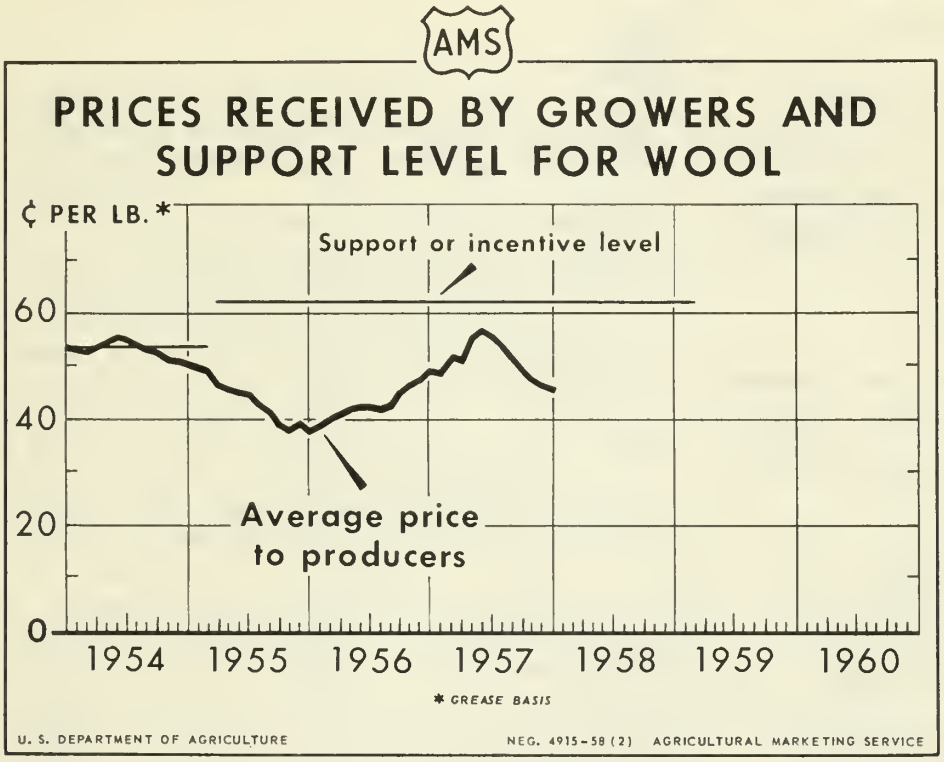

The incentive level for the 1958 marketing season will be 62 cents, the same as for the 3 previous season. Effective with the 1955 season, support has been provided through Government payments to producers. Prior to 1955, support was effected through CCC purchase and/or loan operations.

The monthly average of prices received by growers declined from mid-1954 until January 1956 and then advanced until mid-1957. It began to move downward again last July.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1956 Nov.	1956 Dec.	1957 Jan.	1957 Feb.	1957 Nov.	1957 Dec.	1958 Jan.	1958 Feb.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	46.5	47.6	48.9	48.5	48.3	46.7	45.5	44.4	92
Parity price		61.8	61.8	64.5	65.0	65.9	66.1	69.5	69.8	107
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	75	77	76	75	73	71	65	64	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	162.5	162.5	162.5	150.0	143.8	140.0	137.5	85
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	137.5	147.5	152.5	152.5	140.0	131.2	125.0	123.1	81
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	127.9	132.5	132.5	132.5	127.5	120.0	115.0	113.8	86
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	116.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	123.2	115.6	110.0	109.4	89
Low 1/4 blood	do.	107.5	109.5	109.5	109.5	117.5	103.8	92.5	92.5	84
Common and braid	do.	100.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	100.8	92.5	87.5	87.5	86
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	153.8	162.5	162.5	162.5	150.0	145.0	140.0	138.8	85
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	130.9	137.5	137.5	137.5	130.0	121.2	118.0	116.1	84
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	116.8	119.5	119.5	118.8	118.8	111.5	107.0	102.1	86
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.8	117.5	117.1	113.0	112.5	105.0	102.0	97.1	86
Low 1/4 blood	do.	103.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	107.5	97,5	92.5	92.5	88
Common and braid	do.	93.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	91.2	87.5	87.5	92
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	158.8	162.5	162.5	162.5	160.0	153.8	149.0	141.2	87
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	137.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	140.0	133.8	130.0	126.9	89
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	127.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	125.0	118.8	115.0	106.9	81
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	150.0	157.5	157.5	162.5	147.5	137.5	132.5	132.5	82
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	145.0	152.5	152.5	157.5	142.5	132.5	127.5	127.5	81
64's combing	do.	138.8	142.5	142.5	147.5	137.5	127.5	122.5	122.5	83
58's, 60's combing	do.	133.1	135.0	136.5	142.5	127.5	117.5	112.5	112.5	79
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	124.5	127.8	140.4	142.8	146.5	133.5	115.5	115.5	81
1's (56's)	do.	119.5	122.2	131.5	134.0	144.5	130.5	108.0	108.0	81
2's (50's)	do.	115.0	115.0	126.3	130.0	139.0	126.2	105.0	105.0	81
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	97.5	98.0	102.0	99.0	104
4's (44's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	95.2	96.5	96.5	102
5's (40's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	95.2	96.5	96.5	102
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	31.0	31.0	3/	3/	97
Acetate, 5 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	34.0	34.0	3/	3/	106
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	135.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	100
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	104
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	105
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ From Textile Organon.
3/ Not available.
4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 5, 1958

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SUMMARY

The 1957-58 world supply of wool is a little smaller than estimated earlier in the season and about the same as for 1956-57. The production estimate has been revised downward about 2½ percent. The revision largely reflects a reduction in the estimate for Australia, where, due to drought, the 1957-58 clip is now estimated at 7 percent below 1956-57.

Apparently sheep numbers and shorn wool production in the U. S. are increasing. Numbers continued to increase in the Native States last year. In the Western States numbers increased for the first time in six years, mainly because of improved range conditions. The number of stock sheep on January 1 was 3 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1953. Hence, the 1958 shorn wool clip is likely to be a little larger than the 235.4 million pounds

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1956 Sept.	1956 Oct.	1956 Nov.	1956 Dec.	1957 Sept.	1957 Oct.	1957 Nov.	1957 Dec. 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	4.9	5.1	4.8	6.3	6.6	4.9	3.9	3.9	62
60's and finer	do.	2.3	2.1	1.6	3.9	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.3	59
56's - 60's	do.	.8	.9	.8	1.0	.9	.7	.4	.4	40
50's - 56's	do.	.6	.9	.7	.5	.5	.3	.3	.3	60
44's - 50's	do.	.2	.1	.2	.1	.3	.2	.1	.1	100
40's -44's	do.	.3	.2	.5	.1	.3	.2	.2	.3	300
Not finer than 40's	do.	.3	.7	.6	.5	.8	.7	.6	.3	60
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.4	.2	.4	.2	1.2	.2	.3	.2	100
Duty-free	do.	9.8	13.4	9.1	7.8	12.1	9.5	7.0	7.1	91
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.6	6.8	4.5	4.4	5.8	4.8	3.4	3.6	82
Not finer than 40's	do.	5.2	6.6	4.6	3.4	6.3	4.7	3.6	3.5	103
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	87.6	92.7	97.4	103.8	65.3	70.1	74.0	77.9	75
60's and finer	do.	44.8	46.8	48.4	52.4	32.8	35.3	37.3	39.6	76
56's - 60's	do.	13.0	13.9	14.7	15.8	7.4	8.0	8.4	8.8	56
50's - 56's	do.	9.5	10.4	11.1	11.6	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.9	59
44's - 50's	do.	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.8	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	66
40's - 44's	do.	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.6	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.9	85
Not finer than 40's	do.	10.9	11.6	12.1	12.6	9.2	9.9	10.5	10.8	86
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.2	186
Duty-free	do.	112.5	125.9	135.0	143.1	97.5	107.0	113.9	121.0	85
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	43.6	55.4	59.9	64.3	44.7	49.5	52.8	56.5	88
Not finer than 40's	do.	63.9	70.5	75.1	78.8	52.8	57.5	61.1	64.5	82
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	6.7	7.2	6.7	9.4	9.1	6.9	5.4	5.7	61
Duty-free	do.	13.1	17.7	12.1	10.5	16.1	12.7	9.6	9.3	89
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,110	5,919	4,994	5,174	4,595	3,685	3,438	3,277	63
60's and finer	do.	2,896	3,124	2,612	2,803	2,362	1,771	1,503	1,602	57
50's up to 60's	do.	1,775	2,301	1,967	2,003	1,843	1,550	1,581	1,316	66
48's and coarser	do.	439	494	415	368	390	364	354	359	98
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,685	3,206	2,309	2,682	2,388	2,388	2,045	1,910	71
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	227.3	251.0	275.9	296.6	197.3	215.7	229.4	242.9	82
60's and finer	do.	123.3	135.8	148.9	160.1	99.9	108.7	114.7	121.0	76
50's up to 60's	do.	80.1	89.3	99.1	107.1	78.6	86.4	92.7	98.2	92
48's and coarser	do.	23.9	25.9	27.9	29.4	18.8	20.6	22.0	23.7	81
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	109.0	121.8	133.3	144.1	100.9	112.9	121.0	128.9	89
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.	240.1			311.5	222.3				93
Government orders	do.	1.1			2.3	3.0				273
Men's and boys' wear	do.	118.7			153.5	103.0				87
Women's and children's wear	do.	120.3			155.7	116.3				97
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	10.3			13.7	11.1				108
Blanketing	do.	6.5			8.8	6.3				97
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	3.7			4.9	4.8				126
Total woven fabrics	do.	250.4			325.2	233.4				93

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted system; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

(104 million pounds, clean basis) of last year. Slaughter of sheep and lambs may be down a little this year as sheepmen continue to rebuild their flocks. If it is, production of pulled wool is likely to be a little less than the 33.6 million pounds (25 million pounds, clean basis) of last year. Combined output of shorn and pulled wool last year came to about 129 million pounds, clean basis, 5 percent less than in 1956 and equivalent to a little less than 5 percent of the world total.

The seasonally adjusted rate of wool consumption in the 11 countries combined which report to the Commonwealth Economic Committee declined sharply after the second quarter of last year. It was 6 percent above a year earlier during the first half of the year and a record high. During the third quarter the rate was down almost to the level of a year earlier. During the fourth quarter it was 10 percent below. The rate of use of other fiber by the woolen and worsted industries of these countries also declined during the second half of the year but somewhat less than that for wool.

In the U. S. the seasonally adjusted rate of mill use of both apparel and carpet wool began to decline during the summer of 1956. Last December, the latest month for which information is available, the rate for apparel wool was 37 percent below a year earlier and 41 percent lower than when the decline began.

Use of apparel wool dropped partly because of reduced woolen and worsted mill activity. Consumption of all fibers in worsted combing and in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet last year was down 10 percent from 1956. Woolen and worsted fabric production also declined. The sharp advance in wool prices in late 1956 and early 1957 and high interest rates encouraged the drawing on inventories of woolen and worsted products in manufacturing channels to fill orders. The relatively high wool prices also may have added impetus to the trend to lighter-weight fabric and may have encouraged the substitution of manmade fiber for wool in some items. Prices of manmade staple fiber were relatively stable, and its total use increased last year. Its use in worsted combing and in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet was up 9 million pounds or 15 percent.

The decline in economic activity in the fourth quarter 1957 and uncertainty as to prospective consumer demand accelerated the decline in mill activity. Inventory liquidation apparently has about run its course, however, and with the decline in wool prices a pick up in mill activity may be in the offing. The timing and the extent of the improvement will depend, in a large measure, on the general economic situation and manufacturer and distributor anticipations as to consumer demand for wool products.

World consumption of wool (apparel and carpet) in 1957 increased for the third year in a row. But the increase was only 1 percent compared with a 9 percent rise in 1956. In the 11 countries that report to the Commonwealth Economic Committee aggregate consumption was up somewhat less than 1 percent. Changes relative to 1956 varied considerably from country to country, ranging from an increase of 27 percent in Italy to a decline of 15 percent in the U. S. Use of other materials by the woolen and worsted industries of these countries increased 5 percent.

Mill use of apparel wool in the U.S. last year amounted to 243 million pounds, scoured basis, 54 million pounds or 18 percent below 1956. Carpet wool use was 129 million pounds, 10 percent below 1956. For both, the declines last year followed increases for each of the two previous years. Mill use of cotton and rayon and acetate also declined last year. But use of noncellulosic fiber apparently continued to increase.

U.S. imports of dutiable and duty-free wool for consumption declined last year. The declines reflected the lower mill use of both apparel and carpet wool.

Duty-added prices of British Dominion merino wools advanced 10 to 15 cents per pound, clean basis, or 7 to 10 percent between mid-December and mid-February. Advances for crossbreds were a little smaller. Trade reports attribute these price rises largely to increased buying by Eastern Europe and Japan. However, most of the advance was lost during the last week of February. As of late February prices ranged from 15 to 25 percent below a year earlier.

Before mid-December wool prices had been on a decline that began in mid-May 1957 when they were at the peak of an advance of about a year and a half. Declines for merinos ranged from 40 to 55 cents or 23 to 27 percent. Crossbreds were off from 15 to 40 cents or 15 to 25 percent. Prices had softened with an easing of demand for wool in the U.S. and a number of other countries including France, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool sold during the first 10 months of the 1957-58 season averaged 54.4 cents per pound, grease basis, 10.1 cents higher than the average for the entire 1956-57 season. The season average is expected to be higher than the season average of 44.3 cents in 1956-57. Consequently, payment rates under the 1957-58 program will be lower than the 40 percent for shorn wool and 71 cents per hundredweight for unshorn lambs under the 1956-57 program since the incentive level is unchanged. The average price for the 1958-59 season is likely to be lower than that for 1957-58. In that case payment rates would be higher than those for 1957-58.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices of British Dominion Wool

Between mid-December and mid-February, duty-added prices of British Dominion merino wools advanced 10 to 15 cents per pound, clean basis, or 7 to 10 percent. Trade reports attribute the advance largely to increased buying on the part of Eastern Europe and Japan. Most of the advance was lost when prices declined during the last week of February. Late February prices ranged from 15 to 25 percent below a year earlier.

The price rise followed a general decline from mid-May to mid-December of 1957 that largely reflected an easing of demand in the U. S. and a number of other countries including France, Japan and the United Kingdom. The latter three had taken measures to curtail imports due to foreign exchange difficulties. An accumulation of wool textiles, particularly yarn, in manufacturing and distribution channels also was a factor in curtailed Japanese buying. Declines for merinos ranged from 40 to 55 cents or 23 to 27 percent. Those for crossbreds ranged from 15 to 40 cents or 15 to 25 percent. In general, prices of merinos at mid-December 1957 were from 5 cents below to about 10 cents above late 1955, while prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to about 10 cents or 10 percent higher than in late 1955.

The price decline which began toward the end of last May was preceded by a rise which extended over about a year and a half. Apparently the advance reflected a strengthening of world demand as it accompanied an increase of supplies. Advances between late 1955 and mid-May 1957 ranged from 25 to 55 cents or 20 to 45 percent. Prices of merino wools increased 30 to 45 percent while prices of crossbreds advanced 20 to 35 percent.

Although Boston quotations for domestic wools generally follow the pattern established in foreign markets, changes in Boston quotations frequently lag behind changes in prices abroad. Toward the end of last year and early this year, ratios of Boston quotations to prices abroad were higher than the average for recent years, but during the last week of February they were about the same as the average.

Growers' Prices Averaged 54.4 Cents During First 10 Months of 1957-58 Season

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool sold during the first 10 months of the 1957-58 marketing season averaged 54.4 cents per pound, grease basis, 10.1 cents higher than the average for the entire 1956-57 season. The average for the entire season is likely to be a little lower than the 10-month average, for wool prices in February were lower than the average for the first 10 months. The average for the 1957-58 season, however, is expected to be substantially higher than the average of 44.3 cents for the entire 1956-57 season. With the incentive level of 62 cents the same as in 1956-57, the payment rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs for the 1957-58 program will be lower than the 40 percent for shorn wool and 71 cents per hundredweight for unshorn lambs under the 1956-57 program. The payment rates will not be determinded, of course, until the season average price is known, probably in June.

Present indications are that the average for the 1958-59 season is likely to be a little lower than the average for 1957-58. If so, payment rates would be higher than those for 1957-58. The 1958-59 season is the fourth and last under the National Wool Act of 1954. Legislation has been introduced to extend the program.

Table 1.- Price per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955 to date

Year and month	70's		64's		60's		58's		56's		50's	
	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1955												
January	154	142	132	127	120	116	110	---	102	---	89	---
February	156	145	135	130	123	117	113	---	104	---	92	---
March	152	143	133	130	123	118	115	---	107	---	94	---
April	143	137	130	127	121	116	114	---	107	---	94	---
May	143	138	130	128	120	116	112	---	104	---	91	---
June	144	138	130	126	120	115	112	---	103	---	91	---
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	128	120	110	106	100	95	93	90	89	85	81	80
October	127	120	110	106	99	95	92	88	86	82	76	75
November	128	120	110	106	98	95	90	87	83	80	75	74
December	129	121	111	110	99	97	92	90	85	84	79	78
1956												
January	130	123	113	111	101	99	95	93	88	87	81	80
February	131	123	115	111	101	100	94	92	87	86	80	79
March	130	122	113	111	101	99	91	88	85	83	78	77
April	135	128	118	115	104	102	95	92	87	85	80	78
May	142	136	127	124	113	109	100	97	90	87	81	79
June	149	143	139	133	124	117	109	104	94	90	82	80
July	147	141	132	127	116	110	103	97	90	87	78	76
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	157	152	144	140	128	125	115	110	101	97	87	84
October	157	150	139	135	124	119	113	108	99	95	88	86
November	163	154	144	139	129	124	115	111	101	98	90	88
December	168	159	149	145	134	129	120	114	108	104	95	92
1957												
January	165	158	149	145	135	130	121	116	110	106	97	94
February	169	163	155	151	141	138	130	124	117	113	102	99
March	167	160	152	148	139	135	128	122	116	112	102	99
April	166	160	155	151	145	140	133	126	119	116	105	102
May	171	165	162	157	152	146	139	133	126	122	111	108
June	172	164	159	150	147	138	132	124	122	113	104	101
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	155	145	140	134	131	126	123	118	114	110	103	100
October	146	138	132	127	123	118	116	111	109	103	96	93
November	135	129	125	119	116	111	110	104	105	98	93	89
December	122	118	114	109	106	102	102	96	95	89	84	80
1958												
January	124	119	116	111	109	104	102	97	96	90	83	79

From Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau. Prices converted from pence (Australian) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.--Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1956 to date

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1956						
January 20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January 27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March 2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March 15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April 20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April 27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June 1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June 8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July 13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July 20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September 14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September 21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October 26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October 31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November 30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December 7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957						
January 18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February 1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6
February 22	174.9	143.4	121.2	102.6	96.8	95.6
March 1	172.5	139.8	114.2	99.0	94.4	93.2
March 29	171.9	141.7	118.5	103.4	97.6	97.6
April 5	171.8	144.0	120.8	105.7	99.9	99.9
May 17	178.9	156.8	127.8	109.2	102.2	102.2
May 24	174.4	150.0	---	104.6	97.6	97.6
July 5	168.6	140.7	122.1	101.2	95.4	95.4
July 12	171.8	146.3	127.7	102.2	96.4	96.4
September 13	160.0	141.4	127.5	102.0	93.9	93.9
September 20	161.2	141.5	129.9	104.4	96.3	96.3
October 25	145.8	128.3	117.8	95.6	91.0	88.6
November 1	139.8	128.1	117.6	89.7	85.0	82.7
November 29	135.6	126.2	116.9	91.2	86.5	84.2
December 6	127.4	118.0	113.4	88.8	85.3	83.0
1958						
January 17	127.8	111.3	---	80.9	77.4	---
January 31	133.7	118.5	96.2	84.5	80.9	79.8
February 21	134.9	120.8	---	76.3	72.7	71.6
February 28	130.2	---	---	---	---	70.4

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence (United Kingdom) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Payments for the first two seasons of the incentive program are now estimated at 110 million dollars. Under the Wool Act, total payments are limited to 70 percent of the specific duties collected on imports of wool and wool manufactures from January 1, 1953. By April 1, 1955, the beginning of the first season under the program, these amounts totaled 69 million dollars. An additional 59 million dollars accumulated during the first two seasons covered by the program, bringing the total to 128 million dollars. This total was only 18 million dollars more than payments for the two seasons. Indications are that the additional accumulation during the 1957-58 season will be lower than that for 1956-57 and that it is likely to be lower than payments for 1957-58.

1957-58 World Wool Clip Now Estimated at Slightly Below 1956-57

The Foreign Agricultural Service now estimates 1957-58 world production at 4,970 million pounds, grease basis, about 20 million pounds less than for 1956-57 (table 5). Before this season, world production had increased for 9 years in a row.

Last September, the 1957-58 clip was estimated at 5,095 million pounds. The downward revision largely reflects a reduction in the estimate for Australia where, due to drought, the 1957-58 clip is now put at 9 percent below the estimate of last fall and 7 percent below production in 1956-57.

Domestic Shorn Wool Production May be Up This Year; Stock Sheep Numbers Increase

An increase in shorn wool production appears to be in prospect this year. The number of stock sheep and lambs on January 1 of this year, 27.4 million head, was 3 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest since January 1, 1953 (table 6).

The number of ewe lambs was up 16 percent. Ewes 1 year old and older increased 1 percent.

Stock sheep numbers in the 11 Western States, Texas, and South Dakota increased 3 percent, the first gain in 6 years(table 7). These 13 States accounted for 65 percent of the total number of stock sheep. Inventories were up in 8 of these States. Stock sheep ~~in~~ Texas, the leading sheep State, increased 5 percent. Range conditions in most areas of the West last year were the best of several years.

Stock sheep numbers continued to increase in the Native sheep States, where they were up 4 percent from a year earlier and 28 percent from January 1, 1950. January 1 inventories in 21 of the 35 Native sheep States were up from a year earlier.

Table 3.--Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 28, 1958 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1957 week ended Mar. 1	1957 week ended Oct. 25	1958 week ended Feb. 28	Percent change week ended Feb. 28 from Average 1947-49	Percent change week ended Feb. 28 from Mar. 1, 1957	Percent change week ended Feb. 28 from Oct. 25, 1957
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	162.5	152.5	130.0	-14.3	-20.0	-14.8
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	152.5	142.5	120.0	-12.5	-21.3	-15.8
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	127.5	112.5	+3.1	-15.1	-11.8
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	122.5	124.0	107.5	+7.5	-12.2	-13.3
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	109.5	117.5	92.5	+2.9	-15.5	-21.3
Common and braid	83.5	101.5	101.5	87.5	+4.8	-13.8	-13.8
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	162.5	162.5	135.0	-12.6	-16.9	-16.9
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	137.5	137.5	112.5	-14.5	-18.2	-18.2
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	118.5	122.5	97.5	-5.5	-17.7	-20.4
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	112.5	120.0	92.5	-4.6	-17.8	-22.9
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	105.0	112.5	92.5	+18.0	-11.9	-17.8
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	95.0	87.5	+19.2	-7.9	-7.9
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	162.5	165.0	135.0	-10.5	-16.9	-18.2
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	142.5	145.0	122.5	+1.2	-14.0	-15.5
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	132.5	130.0	102.5	-7.5	-22.6	-21.2

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 4.--Payments under the National Wool Act of 1954

Marketing year	Marketings covered by payments: Shorn wool	Marketings covered by payments: Unshorn lambs	Incentive level	Average price received 1/	Payments: Rate: Shorn wool 2/	Payments: Rate: Unshorn lambs 3/	Payments: Amount 4/: Shorn wool	Payments: Amount 4/: Unshorn lambs	Payments: Amount 4/: Total	70 percent of specific duties 5/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Ct.	Ct.	Pct.	Ct.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
1955	260.2	981.8	62	42.8	44.9	77	50.0	7.6	57.6	31.5
1956	6/254.3	6/1,277.1	62	44.3	40.0	71	7/43.8	7/7.9	51.7	28.2
1957			62							
1958			62							

1/ Average price received by growers for shorn wool sold during the marketing year. 2/ Percentage needed to bring the average price received up to the incentive level. 3/ Per hundredweight of unshorn lambs sold. 4/ Payments made after the close of the marketing year. 5/ The National Wool Act of 1954 limits the accumulated total of payments under the Act on any date to 70 percent of the accumulated total, as of the same date, of gross receipts from specific duties on wool and wool manufactures collected on and after January 1, 1953. The accumulated reserve as of April 1, 1955, was 68.7 million dollars. 6/ Unadjusted for weight of unshorn lambs purchased. 7/ Through December 31, 1957.
From Livestock and Dairy Division, Commodity Stabilization Service.

Slaughter of sheep and lambs may be down a little this year as rebuilding of sheep inventories continues. If so, production of pulled wool would likely be down a little.

U.S. Wool Production Declined Last Year

Less of both shorn and pulled wool was produced last year. The shorn wool clip was 4 percent smaller than in 1956, when it was the largest since 1947 (table 8). The drop last year reflected a lighter weight per fleece. The number of sheep shorn was the same as in 1956. The 1956 and 1957 estimates were recently revised upward by 3 percent and 4 percent, respectively. These revisions were necessary to reflect the substantial increase in shearing of lambs, particularly those fattened for market which occurred in those years.

Shorn wool production in the Native States was 4 percent larger than in 1956 and 34 percent above 1949. In the 11 Western States, Texas, and South Dakota it was down 3 percent from 1956 but up 2 percent from 1949.

Production of pulled wool last year amounted to 33.6 million pounds, 17 percent less than in 1956. The decline reflected a drop of 4 percent in

Table 5.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1951-57

Country	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Argentina	420.0	407.0	400.0	364.0	363.0	392.0	409.0
Australia	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,346.0	1,283.0	1,410.0	1,565.0	1,463.0
New Zealand	406.7	418.0	426.0	455.0	462.0	491.0	497.0
Union of South Africa	240.0	256.8	279.0	281.0	294.0	301.0	311.0
Uruguay	187.4	189.8	202.0	198.0	172.0	174.0	209.0
Other countries	1,795.9	1,917.3	1,942.0	1,979.0	2,019.0	2,067.0	2,081.0
Estimated world total	4,130.0	4,470.0	4,495.0	4,560.0	4,720.0	4,990.0	4,970.0

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Table 6.- Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-58

Year	Lambs		One year and over			Total stock sheep
	Ewes	Rams and wethers	Ewes	Rams	Wethers	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1942	7,864	1,778	37,361	1,446	897	49,346
1943	6,928	1,643	37,303	1,434	888	48,196
1944	6,142	1,951	33,991	1,345	841	44,270
1945	4,782	1,513	31,280	1,264	770	39,609
1946	4,765	1,530	27,619	1,100	511	35,525
1947	4,199	1,415	24,790	994	407	31,805
1948	4,058	1,144	23,013	901	370	29,486
1949	3,827	974	20,976	829	334	26,940
1950	3,908	1,109	20,057	790	318	26,182
1951	4,521	1,146	20,446	823	315	27,251
1952	5,049	827	20,952	842	274	27,944
1953	3,966	842	21,648	873	264	27,593
1954	3,641	823	21,471	868	276	27,079
1955	3,982	740	21,321	860	234	27,137
1956	3,838	687	21,429	845	213	27,012
1957	3,743	644	21,129	825	197	26,538
1958 1/	4,347	625	21,380	847	191	27,390

1/ Preliminary.

Table 7.--Number of stock sheep, number of sheep shorn, and shorn wool production, Native or fleece wool States and Western sheep States, 1949 to date

Year	"Native" or "fleece" wool States			Western sheep States 1/		
	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds
1949	7,605	7,503	55,104	19,335	18,879	157,795
1950	7,428	7,569	56,317	18,754	18,811	160,627
1951	7,807	8,063	60,734	19,444	19,284	167,510
1952	8,440	8,830	65,952	19,504	19,221	167,357
1953	8,678	8,929	67,130	18,915	18,916	165,128
1954	8,608	8,805	66,803	18,471	18,887	169,004
1955	8,673	8,708	66,999	18,464	18,675	167,059
1956	8,867	9,221	71,516	18,145	19,281	167,053
1957	9,129	9,732	74,070	17,409	18,776	161,296
1958	9,520			17,870		

1/ Includes South Dakota, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California.

the average weight of wool pulled per skin and of 14 percent in the number of skins pulled. The quantity of skins available for pulling last year was smaller than in 1956. Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs was down 6 percent.

U.S. Mohair Production Continues to Increase

Production of mohair amounted to 19.1 million pounds, grease basis, last year (table 9). The 1957 clip was 5 percent larger than that for the previous year. The increase last year was the fifth in a row. The 1957 clip was about 56 percent larger than that of 1952.

The number of Angora goats in Texas, which accounted for 97 percent of the mohair produced last year, on January 1 is estimated at 2.9 million head, 2 percent more than on January 1, 1957. The rise continues an upward trend which started in 1953 and suggests a likely further increase in mohair production this year.

Prices received by growers for mohair last year averaged 88.6 cents per pound, grease basis, up for the third year in a row. The average price for 1956 was 84.4 cents. The 1957 average was above the support level of 70 cents.

However, mohair prices have declined sharply in recent months due largely to an easing of world demand. Reportedly, as of late February between 20 and 25 percent of the 1957 clip remained unsold. This, together with a likely further increase in production this year, suggests that unless world demand strengthens payments may be necessary under the 1958 program. The support level is the same as for 1957.

U.S. Production and Consumption of Manmade Staple Fiber Increased Last Year

Production of manmade staple fiber in the United States last year is estimated by the Textile Economics Bureau to have totaled 606 million pounds, 15 percent more than in 1956 (table 10). It was above a year earlier each quarter (table 11). Production of rayon and acetate staple, 425 million pounds, was up 27 million pounds or 7 percent from 1956. Output of noncellulosic staple, 181 million pounds, was up 53 million pounds or 42 percent.

United States consumption of rayon and acetate staple last year is tentatively estimated at 491 million pounds, up 17 million pounds or 4 percent from 1956.

Table 8.- Stock sheep on January 1, number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, price per pound received by growers, value of sales, and wool production, United States, 1940-58

Year	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 2/	Value of sales 3/	Pulled wool production	Total wool production: As reported	Total wool production: Approximate clean fiber equivalent 4/
	Thousands	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Million pounds
1940	46,266	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4	105,539	62,000	434,014	210.2
1941	47,441	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5	137,754	65,800	453,320	219.9
1942	49,346	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1	155,728	66,700	454,997	220.9
1943	48,196	47,892	7.91	378,843	41.6	157,587	65,200	444,043	215.6
1944	44,270	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3	143,224	73,500	411,818	204.0
1945	39,609	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500	378,476	188.4
1946	35,525	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300	342,208	169.6
1947	31,805	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600	308,025	153.1
1948	29,486	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600	278,370	136.9
1949	26,940	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600	248,499	120.4
1950	26,182	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400	249,344	119.8
1951	27,251	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900	253,991	119.8
1952	27,944	28,051	8.32	233,309	5/54.1	126,327	33,600	266,909	127.9
1953	27,593	27,845	8.34	232,258	5/54.9	127,514	42,200	274,458	133.8
1954	27,079	27,692	8.52	235,807	5/53.2	125,538	43,500	279,307	136.4
1955	27,137	27,383	8.55	234,058	42.6	99,813	41,600	275,658	134.2
1956	27,012	28,502	8.37	238,569	44.2	105,544	40,500	279,069	135.3
1957	26,538	28,508	8.26	235,366	7/54.4	128,052	33,600	268,966	128.8
1958	6/27,390								

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Beginning with 1943 the average price is for the marketing season April through March. Prior to 1943 average prices relate to the calendar year.
3/ Computed using April-March average prices beginning with 1943 and calendar year averages prior to 1943.
4/ Production as reported converted on basis of 44 percent yield for shorn wool and 75 percent yield for pulled wool.
5/ Includes an allowance for wool under loan. 6/ Preliminary.
7/ Weighted average price for wool sold April 1957 through January 1958.

Table 9 .- Number of goats clipped, average clip per goat, price per pound received by growers, value of sales, and mohair production, in the seven principal producing States, United States, 1940-57 1/

Year	Goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production	Price per pound	Value of sales
	Thousand	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars
1940	4,297	4.9	21,144	49.7	10,504
1941	4,542	4.8	21,766	56.9	12,389
1942	4,322	4.8	20,676	49.3	10,203
1943	4,276	4.7	20,156	57.1	11,518
1944	4,109	5.0	20,443	60.1	12,295
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,472	5.2	12,892	118.0	15,187
1952	2,287	5.3	12,215	96.3	11,763
1953	2,337	5.5	12,757	87.7	11,187
1954	2,618	5.6	14,578	72.4	10,549
1955	2,983	5.7	16,923	82.2	13,912
1956	3,164	5.8	18,233	84.4	15,383
1957 3/	3,264	5.9	19,072	88.6	16,895

1/ Arizona, California, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah. A small quantity of mohair is produced in other States but no estimate is made of the quantity.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

3/ Preliminary.

Exports from Southern Hemisphere Up a Little From 1956-57

Total exports from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere during the early months of the current season were a little larger than during the same months of 1956-57 (table 13). Most of the increase was in larger exports from Australia and New Zealand. Exports from South Africa, Argentina and Uruguay declined.

Available supplies this season in all of these countries except Australia are larger than for 1956-57. The total for the 5 countries is a little larger than last season. In Argentina and Uruguay, both the carryover from the previous season and the current clips are larger. Small increases in production are indicated for New Zealand and the Union of South Africa, but in view of the drought in South Africa there is some doubt as to whether the indicated increase for that country will be realized. As indicated earlier in this report, production in Australia is down.

CCC Disposes of Last of Its Wool Holdings

The last of the 182 million pounds, actual weight, of wool acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1952-54 price support programs has been sold. Acquisitions, by program year, were as follows: 1952 - 101 million pounds; 1953 - 36 million pounds; 1954 - 45 million pounds. CCC acquired no wool under the programs for later years. Since 1955 support has been provided through direct Government payments to producers.

During May-August 1953, wool acquired under the 1952 program was not available for sale at less than 115 percent of the appraisal value under the 1952 program.

During September 1953-June 27, 1954, CCC wools were available for sale at the higher of (1) market value as determined by the USDA, or (2) 103 percent of appraisal value under the 1952 program plus selling commission.

From June 28, 1954 to October 1955, they were available for sale at 103 percent of 1954 loan rates plus selling commission.

After November 1, 1955 they were sold on a competitive bid basis with sales not to exceed 6$\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds per month. The limitation did not apply to sales made at 103 percent of 1954 loan rates plus selling commission or to wool sold or bartered for export.

CCC held about 149 million pounds when the competitive bid program went into effect. Of this total, 80 percent was sold on a competitive bid basis; 11 percent was sold at schedule prices; and 9 percent was bartered for export.

Disposals last year amounted to 69 million pounds, of which 56 million pounds were for domestic use. About 66 million pounds were sold for domestic use in 1956.

Table 10.--Production of man-made staple fiber, United States, 1946-57

Year	Rayon and acetate	Noncellulosic	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1946	176.4	10.0	186.4
1947	228.4	3.3	231.7
1948	268.2	5.0	273.2
1949	195.1	10.0	205.1
1950	305.5	22.4	327.9
1951	336.0	31.7	367.7
1952	307.0	47.2	354.2
1953	310.0	51.3	361.3
1954	378.9	58.8	437.7
1955	395.6	105.3	500.9
1956	398.3	127.2	525.5
1957	425.1	180.6	605.7

Compiled from Textile Organon.

Table 11.--Production of man-made staple fiber, United States, by quarters, 1956-57

Year	Rayon and acetate	Noncellulosic	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1956			
1st quarter	110.3	27.1	137.4
2nd quarter	97.8	31.0	128.8
3rd quarter	87.5	34.4	121.9
4th quarter	102.7	34.7	137.4
Total	398.3	127.2	525.5
1957			
1st quarter	103.8	41.9	145.7
2nd quarter	98.3	44.4	142.7
3rd quarter	109.6	46.9	156.5
4th quarter	113.4	47.4	160.8
Total	425.1	180.6	605.7

Compiled from Textile Organon.

Table 12.--Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	1,045	1,152	1,303
New Zealand	411	406	441
Union of South Africa	250	261	252
Argentina	222	246	218
Uruguay	80	155	89

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 13.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons through December 1/

Exporting country	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	468	567	578	605
New Zealand 2/	77	72	94	102
Union of South Africa	115	127	119	104
Argentina 2/	22	18	19	13
Uruguay	13	13	34	9

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

2/ Through November.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Less Dutiable Wool Imported Last Year

United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption last year came to 78 million pounds, clean content. This was 26 million pounds or 25 percent less than in 1956 and considerably less than in any other postwar year. The decline compares with a drop of 54 million pounds, scoured basis, in mill use of apparel wool. Imports were below a year earlier each month except September.

The decline last year was the second in succession. The decline in 1956 took place even though mill consumption was up that year and reflected a drawing down of stocks of the raw fiber. The decline in 1957 reflected a drop in mill use. The relationship between the decline in imports for consumption and the decline in consumption last year suggests that if reported disposition exceeded reported supply by about the same amount as the average for the last few years, total stocks of domestic and duty-paid foreign wool at the beginning of this year would have been about the same as a year earlier and the stocks-consumption ratio would have been somewhat higher than a year earlier.

The decline last year varied with the grade category: for 60's and finer wool it was 13 million pounds or 24 percent; for 50's up to 60's it was 12 million pounds or 43 percent; and for wool coarser than 50's it was 1 million pounds or 6 percent.

Imports of Duty-Free Wool Also Down Last Year

United States duty-free imports of wool for consumption, primarily for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, totaled 121 million pounds, clean content, last year, 8 million pounds less than mill use of carpet wool. Imports were about 22 million pounds or 15 percent less than in 1956. The decline in 1957 followed increases during each of the two previous years.

Imports for consumption were down last year because mill use of carpet wool fell off. The decline in the quantity imported was about 7 million pounds less than the decline in the quantity reported consumed.

Duty-free imports of both "named" wools and wools not finer than 40's were less than in 1956. Imports of "named" wools were down 8 million pounds or 12 percent, and imports of wool not finer than 40's dropped 14 million pounds or 18 percent.

World Wool Consumption Increased Last Year

World consumption of wool (apparel and carpet) last year is provisionally estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee at 2,885 million pounds, clean basis, 32 million pounds or about 1 percent more than in 1956. But the

Table 14.--Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1950 to date

Item	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,238	2,330	2,357	2,549	2,565	2,615	2,742	2,870	2,860
Consumption	2,640	2,291	2,372	2,655	2,561	2,620	2,853	2,885	---

1/ Production during the season beginning during the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 15.--World consumption of wool, clean basis, 1953-57

Country	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
United Kingdom	488	462	475	475	481
United States 2/	494	384	414	441	372
France	250	256	246	277	297
Japan	125	110	127	171	186
Germany (Fed. Rep.)	154	152	168	176	183
Italy	132	119	113	124	157
Belgium	70	63	65	78	77
Australia	55	56	56	65	70
Netherlands	24	25	26	28	26
Canada	25	18	21	21	21
Sweden	14	12	12	11	11
U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe, China	427	499	491	560	565
Total 3/	2,655	2,561	2,620	2,853	2,885

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Consumption on woolen and worsted systems only.
3/ Includes estimates for countries not listed.

Data for United States from Bureau of the Census; data for other countries from Commonwealth Economic Committee.

increase last year, the third in a row, is small compared with the increase of 233 million pounds or 9 percent in 1956.

The total for the 11 countries which report to the Commonwealth Economic Committee on a quarterly basis was up somewhat less than 1 percent, slightly less than the increase in the world total. Changes relative to a year earlier, however, varied considerably from country to country, ranging from an increase of 27 percent in Italy to a decline of 15 percent in the United States. Consumption is estimated to have increased in 6 of the 11 countries, to have declined in 3, and to have remained unchanged in 2. The 11 countries accounted for 65 percent of the world total.

Total use of other fiber by the woolen and worsted industries in the 10 countries for which the information is available increased 5 percent between 1956 and 1957. Changes relative to 1956 ranged from a decline of 3 percent in Japan and Belgium to an increase of 14 percent in France. Use of such fiber increased in 7 of the 10 countries and declined in 3. In 2 countries use of other fiber increased while use of wool remained unchanged. For 6 countries the changes were in the same direction, while for 2 the changes were in the opposite direction.

The seasonally adjusted rate of raw wool consumption in the 11 countries advanced continuously from the first quarter of 1955 through the first quarter of 1957. It was 6 percent above a year earlier during the first half of 1957 and a record high. But it declined sharply after the second quarter. During the third quarter it was down almost to the level of a year earlier. In the final quarter it was 10 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since the last quarter of 1955. Use of wool during the fourth quarter was below a year earlier in 7 of the 11 reporting countries.

Mill Use of Apparel Wool in U. S. Down Last Year.

Mill consumption of apparel wool, as well as of cotton and of rayon and acetate, last year was less than in 1956. Use of noncellulosic manmade fiber apparently continued to increase. Consumption of apparel wool was the smallest since 1938; use of cotton was at the lowest level since 1949; and use of rayon and acetate was the lowest since 1954.

Consumption of apparel wool by woolen and worsted mills amounted to 243 million pounds, scoured basis, 54 million pounds or 18 percent below 1956. The decline last year followed increases for each of the two previous years. The seasonally adjusted rate began to decline during the summer of 1956. Last December, the latest month for which information is available, the rate was 37 percent below a year earlier and 41 percent lower than when the decline began.

Several factors contributed to the decline in apparel wool use. It reflects in part reduced woolen and worsted mill activity. Consumption of all fibers in worsted combing and in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet last year was down 10 percent from 1956. The sharp advance in wool prices and

high interest rates encouraged the drawing on inventories of woolen and worsted products in manufacturing channels to fill orders. The high wool prices also may have added impetus to the trend to lighter-weight fabric. The sharp increase in prices of wool, with prices of manmade staple relatively stable, encouraged the use of manmade fiber in place of wool in some itmes (tables 17, 18, and 19). In contrast with the decline in use of apparel wool is an increase of 9 million pounds or 15 percent in use of manmade fiber in worsted combing and in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet. As indicated elsewhere in this report, total use of manmade staple fiber also increased. The decline in economic activity toward the end of the year also contributed.

The decline in mill activity extended to both the woolen and worsted systems. Use of fiber on the worsted system was down 20 percent, with raw wool down 23 percent, manmade fiber up 16 percent, and other fiber (mohair, etc.) down 17 percent. Fiber use on the woolen system was down 7 percent, with raw wool down 13 percent, manmade fiber up 15 percent, and other fiber (reused and reprocessed wool, other animal fiber, etc.) down 8 percent.

Consumption of wool was down for all grade categories (table 21). But the decline was concentrated largely in the 60's and finer category. By grades, the decline was 39 million pounds or 24 percent for 60's and finer, with use on the worsted system down 29 million pounds or 27 percent, and on the woolen system, down 10 million pounds or 19 percent; for 50's up to 60's it was down 9 million pounds or 8 percent, with use on the worsted system down 3 million pounds or 8 percent, and on the woolen, down 6 million pounds or 8 percent; use of 48's and coarser wool was down 6 million pounds, with use on the worsted system down a little more than 2 million pounds or 27 percent, and woolen mill use down a little more than 3 million pounds or 16 percent.

1957 U. S. Mill Use of Carpet Wool Below 1956

Domestic woolen mills used 129 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool last year, 15 million pounds or 10 percent less than in 1956. Use of all fiber by woolen mills in the spinning of carpet yarn came to 183 million pounds, 17 million pounds or 8 percent less than in 1956. The decline for fiber other than raw wool was only 2 million pounds, or 3 percent. Use of manmade fiber was down 2 million pounds or 6 percent, but use of reused and reprocessed wool was up 2 percent.

The rate of use of carpet wool was below a year earlier each month except March. It was 11 percent below a year earlier in November and 29 percent below a year earlier in December.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Down Last Year

The decline in domestic woolen and worsted mill activity last year was also reflected in reduced output of woolen and worsted fabric (fabric containin by weight 50 percent or more wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool). During the first 9 months of 1957, production of woven felt amounted to 7 million

Table 16.--Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,279	5,673	5,390	5,586	5,751	5,282	5,046	5,721	5,066	5,621	5,570	5,098
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,825	8,213	7,931	8,141	8,336	7,533	6,701	8,350	7,716	8,597	8,463	7,873
1956												
Apparel	6,169	6,404	5,864	6,254	6,141	5,568	5,212	5,965	5,110	5,919	4,994	5,174
Carpet	3,213	3,362	2,898	3,037	2,863	2,363	1,787	3,044	2,685	3,206	2,309	2,682
Total	9,382	9,766	8,762	9,291	9,004	7,931	6,999	9,009	7,795	9,125	7,303	7,856
1957												
Apparel	5,306	5,569	5,370	5,032	5,330	5,390	4,256	4,819	4,595	3,685	3,438	3,277
Carpet	2,973	3,344	3,164	2,872	2,388	2,068	1,702	2,445	2,388	2,388	2,045	1,910
Total	8,279	8,913	8,534	7,904	7,718	7,458	5,958	7,264	6,983	6,073	5,483	5,187

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep:													
1951	35.3	36.7	39.6	41.7	42.0	42.0	46.5	45.5	45.9	47.1	45.1	45.2	42.5
1952	43.4	42.2	42.3	41.6	42.0	41.2	41.9	43.4	42.7	43.8	44.2	43.8	42.7
1953	43.6	46.1	45.3	47.9	45.1	44.0	42.3	45.6	47.4	46.8	46.7	45.8	44.7
1954	45.4	42.8	43.4	43.2	43.2	42.3	41.0	41.8	43.6	43.2	44.0	42.9	43.0
1955	41.9	42.0	41.4	41.1	41.9	40.2	40.3	39.2	39.3	38.2	39.8	40.1	40.4
1956	39.8	39.1	40.0	40.4	38.9	40.2	39.4	39.0	38.9	39.1	40.4	40.5	39.6
1957	40.2	40.2	40.4	39.0	37.5	37.3	36.3	35.5	35.7	34.8	32.0	33.1	36.8
Other wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool 1/:													
1951	48.3	45.5	42.8	44.3	42.5	43.5	40.3	40.8	41.6	41.2	43.1	42.4	43.2
1952	43.8	43.6	42.0	42.6	42.4	45.7	46.2	42.6	43.0	42.2	41.5	41.9	43.2
1953	43.1	40.6	40.1	37.0	41.2	42.2	44.6	40.1	38.4	38.5	36.6	40.2	41.3
1954	40.6	41.6	41.0	41.0	42.5	44.7	45.5	42.5	41.1	41.5	40.4	43.2	42.2
1955	43.4	42.0	41.3	42.4	41.1	43.1	42.9	41.9	42.5	44.3	42.0	43.6	42.5
1956	43.7	43.2	42.7	42.0	42.8	41.0	42.9	42.2	41.2	40.9	38.7	41.3	41.9
1957	39.9	39.5	39.3	40.1	40.4	41.3	42.3	42.9	41.3	40.7	43.6	45.7	41.4
Manmade fiber 2/													
1951	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	7.2	6.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	6.0
1952	4.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
1953	8.7	8.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.5
1954	8.0	10.1	10.5	11.0	9.9	9.3	9.7	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.2	10.4
1955	11.1	12.6	13.7	12.8	13.2	12.9	13.1	14.5	14.1	13.0	13.8	11.8	13.1
1956	11.9	12.7	12.8	13.2	13.9	14.0	13.4	14.2	15.1	15.2	15.8	13.6	13.8
1957	15.0	15.1	15.6	16.4	17.7	16.7	16.5	16.8	18.3	19.6	19.9	17.1	17.1
Other fiber 2/													
1951	9.4	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.3
1952	8.5	9.3	9.1	9.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.0
1953	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
1954	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.4
1955	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.0
1956	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.7
1957	4.9	5.2	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.7

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, manmade fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of production of top by fiber content, United States, by months, 1956 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
						Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep							
1956	77.0	76.0	76.7	73.3	71.8	74.8	73.7	72.2	77.7	75.9	76.7	75.1	75.1
1957	77.9	77.1	72.0	71.0	70.8	70.4	70.8	65.5	68.4	64.4	65.4	66.9	70.2
						Manmade fiber 1/							
1956	19.1	19.5	18.5	22.0	23.3	20.8	21.6	22.8	19.0	20.8	19.8	21.0	20.6
1957	18.2	19.2	23.5	24.9	24.6	25.6	25.6	29.8	27.3	30.6	30.1	27.5	25.5
						Other fiber							
1956	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.0	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.9	4.3
1957	3.9	3.7	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.5	5.6	4.3

1/ Top combed and top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951 to date 1/

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	84.7	86.0	84.4	88.1	87.8	87.2	85.4	86.2	86.9	84.8	82.5	83.2	85.8
1952	85.5	84.4	82.5	85.4	85.6	86.7	89.6	87.6	88.2	87.6	86.5	84.8	86.4
1953	86.2	85.3	89.2	88.7	89.3	87.9	91.2	89.9	90.8	89.2	86.2	88.6	88.6
1954	86.7	87.9	86.7	87.8	88.1	88.4	89.7	88.5	87.8	83.5	86.0	88.1	88.5
1955	87.4	88.1	88.4	86.9	85.1	86.5	87.8	86.8	87.4	88.6	89.9	88.7	87.6
1956	88.9	88.5	88.4	88.1	87.8	89.5	89.6	88.4	90.3	89.8	89.6	89.0	89.0
1957	89.5	89.0	86.0	86.7	86.3	86.8	87.7	83.8	84.6	82.3	85.2	81.6	86.1
Manmade fiber 2/ 3/													
1951	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.2
1952	3.3	3.4	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9
1953	8.6	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.0	6.5	4.6	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.6	4.3	6.5
1954	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4
1955	6.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.5	6.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	6.3
1956	6.5	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.1	4.6	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	5.8
1957	5.9	6.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	7.8	10.1	10.0	11.1	8.9	11.4	8.5
Other fiber 2/													
1951	10.9	10.1	11.9	8.8	8.8	9.8	11.7	11.6	10.8	12.9	15.0	13.5	11.0
1952	11.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	12.0	10.4	7.9	9.5	9.7	10.0	10.7	12.2	10.7
1953	5.2	6.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.9	7.2	7.1	4.9
1954	7.1	6.1	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4	6.5	5.6	10.4	8.4	6.5	6.1
1955	6.3	6.5	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	6.1
1956	4.6	5.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.2
1957	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.1	5.8	5.0	4.5	6.1	5.4	6.6	5.9	7.0	5.4

1/ Consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil combed.

2/ Prior to January 1953, man-made fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber."

3/ Does not include top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1948-57

System	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.5	52.6	49.8	51.4	48.6
Woolen	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.5	47.4	50.2	48.6	51.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1948-57

Grade	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	50.9	52.6	52.7	54.0	49.8
50's up to 60's	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	35.9	34.4	36.0	36.1	40.4
48's and coarser	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.2	13.0	11.3	9.9	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 22.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.6
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.9
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	73.6	74.0	76.2	71.8	73.7	74.8	71.6	72.4	70.5	71.3	67.1	68.7	72.2
1957	72.0	74.1	71.9	72.8	70.0	68.6	70.4	69.1	69.8	69.5	66.5	66.6	70.6
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	2.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.5
1957	1.0	.9	1.1	.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	.7	.9	.9	1.1	1.0	1.0
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	6.8
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	7.1	7.0	6.4	8.3	8.3	6.2	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.9	8.6	9.7	7.9
1957	10.1	8.4	9.5	10.5	8.0	8.5	10.7	10.1	9.6	11.2	10.1	9.8	9.6
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	16.9	16.4	14.4	17.0	15.0	16.4	16.2	16.6	18.1	17.3	21.8	19.5	17.2
1957	16.2	15.4	16.7	14.3	18.3	19.4	16.4	18.8	19.1	17.8	21.5	21.7	17.6
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.1
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2
1957	.7	1.2	.8	1.5	2.7	2.5	1.2	1.3	.6	.6	.8	.9	1.2

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

pounds, 16 percent below a year earlier; production of other woven fabric totaled 233 million linear yards, down 17 million yards or 7 percent from 1956 (table 23). The declines last year followed increases for each of the two previous years.

Non-apparel fabric accounted for about 5 percent of the total yardage of woolen and worsted fabric produced. The proportion has declined considerably over the last few years. As recently as 1953, it was 14 percent. Production of woolen and worsted non-apparel fabric, mostly blanketing and upholstery fabric, has declined sharply in recent years due largely to the inroads of other materials. The electric blanket also may have been a factor in the continous decline in production of woolen blanketing over the last 5 years. Output of woolen blanketing during the first 3 quarters of 1957 was down 3 percent from 1956 and down 70 percent from 1953. Output of other non-apparel fabric, although up 26 percent from 1956, was down 71 percent from 1953.

Although Government orders for apparel fabric last year accounted for almost 3 times the yardage of 1956, they accounted for less than 2 percent of the total yardage of apparel fabric. The yardage of men's and boys' wear fabric was down 13 percent, with woolens down 5 percent and worsteds down 18 percent. Output of women's and children's wear fabric was down 3 percent, with woolens down 5 percent and worsted up 3 percent.

Production of woolen and worsted woven fabric was above a year earlier from the fourth quarter of 1954 through the third quarter of 1956. It then dropped below a year earlier and continued below through the third quarter of 1957, the latest quarter for which information is available.

1957 Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Down from 1956

Production of men's suits last year came to 20.0 million, of separate dress and sports trousers to 63.6 million, and of overcoats and topcoats to 3.7 million (table 24). Cuttings of all categories were less than in 1956, with the declines in the average weekly rates ranging from 2 percent for suits to 39 percent for overcoats and topcoats. A decline of 3 percent in regular-weight suits more than offset a slight increase in summer-weight suits.

Cuttings of both summer-weight suits and trousers from fabric containing 50 percent or more wool increased a little while cuttings from other fabrics declined (table 25).

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Women's Outerwear Garments Last Year

During 1957, 150.6 million unit-priced dresses, 93.6 million skirts, 10.8 million suits, 26.5 million coats, and 150.6 million blouses were produced (tables 26 and 27). Changes relative to 1956 ranged from an increase of 9 percent for coats to a decline of 12 percent for suits. Production of suits declined for the second year in a row and was the lowest of the postwar period. Cuttings of skirts increased for the third year in a row and continued the sharp upward trend of the postwar period.

Table 23.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, January-September 1953-57 1/

Fabric	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1955	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	267,026	208,204	238,706	250,402	233,432	-2.2	-6.8
Apparel	227,842	191,149	223,930	240,083	222,308	-.7	-7.4
Government orders	15,422	701	4,253	1,081	2,969	-30.2	+174.7
Other than Government orders	212,420	190,448	219,677	239,002	219,339	-.2	-8.2
Men's and boy's	102,804	2/87,977	2/107,303	2/118,692	2/102,992	-4.0	-13.2
Woolen	45,707	45,719	52,265	52,635	49,914	-4.5	-5.2
Worsted	57,097	37,548	49,725	57,004	46,763	-6.0	-18.0
Women's and children's	109,616	2/102,471	2/112,374	2/120,310	2/116,347	+3.5	-3.3
Woolen	92,066	81,223	91,739	96,771	92,345	+.7	-4.6
Worsted	17,550	12,176	10,848	12,220	12,598	+16.1	+3.1
Non-apparel	37,187	17,055	14,776	10,319	11,124	-24.7	+7.8
Blanketing	20,976	9,870	8,819	6,536	6,351	-28.0	-2.8
Government orders	6,257	---	632	170	---	---	---
Other than Government orders	14,719	---	8,187	6,366	---	---	---
Other non-apparel	16,211	7,185	5,957	3,783	4,773	-19.9	+26.2
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	7,409	7,379	7,911	8,361	7,017	-11.3	-16.1

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.
2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.
3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 24.--Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in average weekly rate 1957 from	
	1955 (52 weeks)	1956 (52 weeks)	1957 (51 weeks)	1955	1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	20,280	20,888	20,028	+0.7	-2.2
Regular-weight	15,338	15,062	14,312	-4.9	-3.2
Summer-weight	4,942	5,826	5,716	+18.0	+.1
50 percent or more wool	1,879	2,300	2,308	+25.5	+2.5
Man-made fibers	2,794	3,227	3,015	+10.1	-4.8
Other	269	299	393	+48.1	+35.1
Separate dress and sport trousers	67,355	72,322	63,636	-3.7	-10.3
50 percent or more wool	19,441	19,777	22,752	+19.3	+17.3
Other	47,914	52,545	40,884	-13.0	-20.7
Overcoats and topcoats	5,672	6,140	3,652	-34.4	-39.4

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 25.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	38.0	39.5	40.4
Man-made fibers	56.5	55.4	52.7
Other	5.5	5.1	6.9
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	28.9	27.3	35.8
Other	71.1	72.7	64.2

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 26.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	150,445	153,002	150,584	-1.6
Rayon and acetate	73,019	74,824	77,214	+3.2
Other	77,426	78,178	73,370	-6.2
Skirts	78,900	87,096	93,583	+7.4
Rayon and acetate	16,116	16,284	16,884	+3.7
Other	62,784	70,812	76,704	+8.3
Suits	13,638	12,213	10,772	-11.8
Rayon and acetate	5,565	5,141	4,011	-22.0
Other	8,073	7,072	6,761	-4.4
Coats	23,768	24,370	26,513	+8.8
Blouses	178,668	161,904	150,584	-7.0
Cotton	120,792	109,116	77,214	-29.2
Other	57,876	52,788	73,370	+39.0

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 27.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	48.5	48.9	51.3
Other	51.5	51.1	48.7
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	20.4	18.7	18.0
Other	79.6	81.3	82.0
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	40.8	42.1	37.2
Other	59.2	57.9	62.8
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	67.6	67.4	51.3
Other	32.4	32.6	48.7

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

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